

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | MinnesotaCare Buy-In

*Better Health Care Choices – Lower Prices – No Ongoing Cost to Taxpayers*

In 1992, Republican Governor Arne Carlson and a bipartisan coalition of legislators created MinnesotaCare – a health insurance plan that some eligible Minnesotans could choose to purchase for themselves and their families. For the past 26 years, about 100,000 eligible Minnesotans have chosen MinnesotaCare for the high-quality health coverage they need, at prices they can better afford.

Governor Mark Dayton is seeking to build on the bipartisan successes of MinnesotaCare. To lower prices for around 100,000 more Minnesotans, Governor Dayton wants to give everyone who buys their insurance on the individual health insurance market the choice to buy-in to MinnesotaCare. Minnesotans who choose MinnesotaCare Buy-In would pay their own way – meaning the cost of their premiums would pay for their coverage.

While the Minnesota Legislature did not approve the MinnesotaCare Buy-In during the 2017 Legislative Session, they will have the opportunity to again consider the Governor’s proposal in 2018.

## Frequently Asked Questions About “MinnesotaCare Buy-In”

<b>1</b>	<b>Who Could Purchase the MinnesotaCare Buy-In Plan?</b>	Anyone who purchases their health insurance on the individual market could choose MinnesotaCare Buy-In coverage through MNsure.
<b>2</b>	<b>How Would MinnesotaCare Buy-In Be Paid For?</b>	MinnesotaCare Buy-In would be paid for like any standard commercial health insurance product. Minnesotans who choose to purchase MinnesotaCare Buy-In coverage would pay premiums for their plan. The premiums they pay would cover the full cost of their coverage.
<b>3</b>	<b>Would Minnesota Taxpayers Subsidize Coverage for MinnesotaCare Buy-In?</b>	No. MinnesotaCare Buy-In enrollees would <u>pay their own way</u> – meaning the cost of their premiums would pay for their coverage.
<b>4</b>	<b>What Would MinnesotaCare Buy-In Cover?</b>	MinnesotaCare Buy-In would be high-quality coverage, including the same health conditions and treatments as any standard commercial health plan. It would include all essential health benefits required by the state, and provide vision and dental health coverage.
<b>5</b>	<b>How Would Minnesotans Purchase MinnesotaCare Buy-In Health Coverage?</b>	MinnesotaCare Buy-In would be sold on MNsure, alongside standard commercial products. Qualifying Minnesotans who purchase this coverage would also be eligible for federal tax credits through MNsure to further-reduce the cost of their health insurance coverage.
<b>6</b>	<b>How Much Would MinnesotaCare Buy-In Cost?</b>	MinnesotaCare Buy-In would cost, on average, an estimated \$658 per person per month for a Silver Plan. This is 28 percent less than the same coverage in the commercial market, where the average Silver Plan costs \$914 a month. Minnesotans who

		purchase MinnesotaCare Buy-In also would still be eligible for federal tax credits through MNsure.
<b>7</b>	<b>When Would MinnesotaCare Buy-In Be Available?</b>	The MinnesotaCare Buy-In option would be available through MNsure for the 2020 open enrollment period.
<b>8</b>	<b>How Efficient is the State of Minnesota in Administering MinnesotaCare?</b>	The State of Minnesota has proven it is very efficient in managing MinnesotaCare. Right now, the State has only 3 percent in overhead costs for managing MinnesotaCare enrollees. These administrative costs are much lower than standard commercial health plans, which helps keep MinnesotaCare premiums even lower.
<b>9</b>	<b>How Would MinnesotaCare Buy-In Help Provide Better Access to Care for Minnesotans?</b>	Limited health insurance options in Greater Minnesota make it difficult for some Minnesotans to choose and keep their own doctors. But the broad network of physicians and care providers available through MinnesotaCare would offer more families, all across Minnesota, a real option to choose and keep their own doctors.
<b>10</b>	<b>Why Does Minnesota Need a MinnesotaCare Buy-In Option? What Benefit Would it Provide to Minnesotans and Our Individual Health Insurance Market?</b>	After previously reaching a historic low of 4.3 percent in 2016, the Minnesota Health Access Survey found that Minnesota's uninsured rate increased to 6.3 percent in 2017, leaving over 349,000 Minnesotans without health coverage. Steep premium increases and high deductibles have placed a big financial burden on too many Minnesotans. MinnesotaCare Buy-In would offer Minnesotans better health care choices and lower prices.
<b>11</b>	<b>Would There Be Any Initial Startup Costs for the State?</b>	Yes. Initially, the state would need a one-time investment to get ready for more people to buy-in to MinnesotaCare. After that initial down payment, the entire cost of MinnesotaCare Buy-In coverage would be paid for by the premiums of those who purchase the coverage.
<b>12</b>	<b>Who Would Provide MinnesotaCare Buy-In Plans?</b>	All health plans that contract with the Department of Human Services for MinnesotaCare and Medical Assistance would be required to offer MinnesotaCare Buy-In. MinnesotaCare Buy-In would be delivered through either: 1) the health plans as part of the Department of Human Services' managed care contracts; or 2) an accountable care organization.
<b>13</b>	<b>Would the State of Minnesota Need Federal Approval to Implement MinnesotaCare Buy-In?</b>	Yes. Creating a MinnesotaCare Buy-In option for Minnesotans would require approval from the federal government.